

CLAIMS

1. A nut and seat assembly for a clamp, comprising
(i) a nut to be tightened onto a bolt; and
5 (ii) a clamp member having a seat for the nut and an aperture defined by prongs so the bolt can be inserted laterally into the aperture and the nut can be tightened axially against the seat;
wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.
- 10 2. An assembly according to Claim 1, wherein tightening of the nut onto the seat pushes the prongs of the clamp member together and can tighten the prongs around the bolt.
- 15 3. An assembly according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the nut comprises a mating surface at or towards a lower edge of the nut which co-operates with a corresponding mating surface on the seat so that as the nut is tightened onto the bolt action of the surfaces on each other prevents outward movement of the prongs and/or pushes the prongs together and tightens them around the bolt.
- 20 4. An assembly according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein prongs of the clamp member form a U-shaped aperture such that in use a bolt can be inserted laterally into the open end of the aperture and the seat is formed from the sides of the prongs.
- 25 5. An assembly according to any of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the nut comprises wings for hand tightening in use and a means for machine tightening the nut onto the bolt during manufacture of a clamp which comprises the assembly.
- 30 6. An assembly according to any previous Claim made of plastics

material.

7. A method of securing a clamp around a pipe, comprising:-

locating an upper clamp member over the pipe;

locating a lower clamp member under the pipe, respective first ends of the clamp members being connected, optionally via a pivot, and a bolt being attached to the second end of one of the clamp members; and

tightening a nut onto the bolt so the nut engages with a seat on the second end of the other clamp member so as to close the clamp;

wherein the seat comprises prongs forming an open-sided aperture for the bolt; and tightening the nut prevents outward movement of the prongs away from the bolt.

8. A method according to Claim 7, comprising tightening the nut onto the bolt so as to move the prongs inwards and tighten the prongs around the bolt.

9. A clamp, for clamping pipework, comprising:-

a first clamp member;

a second clamp member;

a bolt; and

a nut

such that when the first clamp member is attached to the second clamp member and the bolt is attached to the first clamp member the nut can be tightened onto the bolt so as to clamp pipework between the first and second clamp members,

wherein the second clamp member comprises an aperture defined by prongs and into which the bolt can be moved laterally, and tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member prevents splaying of the prongs.

10. A clamp according to Claim 9, wherein tightening of the nut onto the second clamp member exerts an inward force on the prongs, towards the

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bolt.

11. A clamp according to Claim 9, wherein the second clamp member comprises an open-sided, U-shaped aperture defined by prongs and in use the bolt can be moved laterally in and out of the aperture and the nut is tightened axially onto the bolt.

12. A Clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the first and second clamp members are pivotally connected at respective first ends.

13. A Clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 12, wherein the bolt is separate from the first clamp member and comprises a retention means and the first clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the first clamp member is resisted by the retention means.

14. A clamp according to Claim 13, wherein the retention means comprises a resilient, angled projection so the bolt can easily be inserted into the aperture but is more difficult to remove once inserted.

15. A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 14, wherein the bolt comprises a T-shaped end portion to engage against the first clamp member in use and to act as a pivot for pivotal movement of the bolt relative to the first clamp member.

16. A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 15, wherein at the end that receives the nut the bolt comprises a non-threaded portion to facilitate location of the nut onto the bolt.

17. A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 17, wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention

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means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

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18. A clamp according to any of Claims 9 to 17 made of plastics material.

19. A clamp, having an upper member and a lower member, to go around a pipe, a nut and a bolt,

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wherein the bolt is separate from the lower clamp member and comprises a retention means and the lower clamp member comprises an aperture through which the bolt passes such that when the bolt has been passed through the aperture removal of the bolt from the lower clamp member is resisted by the retention means, and

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wherein the first and second clamp members are separate but pivotally engaged to each other and wherein one of the first and second members comprises a resilient retention means and the other comprises a surface against which acts the retention means, and wherein it is easy to snap the first and second members into pivotal engagement but more difficult to disengage the first and second clamp members thereafter.

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